support for India's candidature. The Government are steadfast in its pursuit of an independent foreign policy in the service of India's interests.

Passports of the people from J&K

2601. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the passport office has set up troublesome process for issuing the passport to the migrants/residents of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these migrants of J&K are being denied the passport facility even though they are settled in Delhi for the last twenty years; and

(d) whether these migrants are being asked by passport office to submit residential proof of Kashmir when they are settled in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, the residents of Jammu & Kashmir are issued passports as expeditiously as possible, after prescribed security verification by the concerned agencies.

(b) This procedure has been laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the light of security situation in the State.

(c) and (d) No. Migrants living outside Jammu & Kashmir for more than five years are issued passports after normal police verification.

Indian territories claimed by foreign countries

†2602. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the parts of Indian territory which have been claimed by other countries, as their territories;

(b) the name of such countries;

(c) the area of land claimed by such countries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of Government's opinion thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The country-wise information is given below:

Pakistan

Pakistan has illegally occupied approximately 78,00 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China in 1963. India's position is that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

China

China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. Kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector. In the Middle Sector, China illegally claims about 2,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory.

Nepal

The India-Nepal boundary is based on the treaty of Sugauli of 1816 between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal and subsequent treaties and agreements. There are differences of perception on the alignment of boundary between India and Nepal in some regions, primarily Narsahi, Susata in Bihar and Kalapani in Uttarakhand. The shifting of course in Susata region of the Gandak river, the mid-stream of which formed the boundary as per Treaty of Sugauli, has resulted in claims and counterclaims by both sides in this segment. These are being addressed by the two countries through the establishment of a Joint Technical Committee on Boundary-related issues in 1981.

Plan to resolve Siachen issue

2603. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: